

REMARKS

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks,
Applicants request favorable reconsideration of the above-identified application.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-15 are now pending in this application, with Claims 1, 8, 9 and 12 being independent. By this Amendment, Applicants have canceled Claim 3, amended Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7-12, and added new Claims 14 and 15.

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over U.S. Patent No. 5,672,862 (Ohara et al.). Applicants traverse this rejection.

As recited in independent Claims 1, 8 and 9, Applicants' invention is generally directed to a binocular device having left and right vibration-correcting optical systems that correct left and right image vibration by being driven in the yaw direction and the pitch direction, and left and right optical system holding members that hold the left and right vibration-correcting optical systems, respectively. An intermediate supporting member supports the left and right optical system holding members so as to be rotatable in the yaw direction. The yaw direction rotational axes of the left and right optical system holding members are distanced from the vibration-correcting optical systems in the direction of the optical axes.

As recited in independent Claim 12, Applicants' invention is directed to an observation optical instrument having a correcting optical system that corrects image vibration, and a supporting member that supports the holding member so as to be able to rotate in the yaw direction. The yaw-directional axis of the holding member is distanced

from the correcting optical system in the direction of the optical axis.

With a distance (in the direction of the optical axis) being provided between a yaw direction rotational axis of a holding member and a vibration-correcting optical system, a large amount of rotation of the correcting optical system is achieved with a small angle of rotation of the holding member. Thus, a large amount of image vibration can be corrected while keeping the driving amount of the device low.

The Ohara, et al. patent is directed to a binocular device with a variable angle prism (VAP). The yaw direction rotational axis of the VAP is provided integrally on or within the variable angle prism. Consequently, that patent does not describe distancing a yaw direction rotational axis of a holding member from a correcting optical system.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the Ohara, et al. patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the features of the yaw direction rotational axes of left and right optical system holding members being distanced from vibration-correcting optical systems in the direction of the optical axes, as recited in independent Claims 1, 8 and 9. In addition, Applicants submit that that patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the features of a yaw-directional axis of a holding member being distanced from a correcting optical system in the direction of the optical axis, as recited in independent Claim 12.

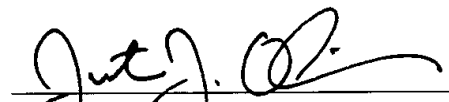
Therefore, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance.

Applicants believe that the Amendment reduces the number of issues for appeal. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants earnestly believe the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Applicants request entry of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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